

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A sol-gel coating material comprising
- (A) an acrylate copolymer solution comprising at least one acrylate copolymer (A1) prepared by copolymerizing at least the following monomers:
- a1) at least one (meth)acrylic ester which is substantially free of acid groups,
 - a2) at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer which bears at least one hydroxyl group per molecule and is substantially free of acid groups, and
 - a3) at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer which bears per molecule at least one acid group which is convertible into the corresponding acid anion group;
- (B) a sol prepared by hydrolyzing, condensing and complexing
- B1) at least one hydrolyzable metal compound of the general formula I
- $$MR_n \quad (I)$$
- where the variables and the index have the following meaning:
- M = aluminum, titanium or zirconium,
- R = hydrolyzable groups, hydroxyl groups, nonhydrolyzable groups, and mixtures thereof, with the proviso that there is at least one hydrolyzable group, and
- n = 3 or 4;
- B2) at least one hydrolyzable silane of the general formula II
- $$Si(R^1)_2(R^2)_2 \quad (II)$$
- in which the variables R^1 and R^2 have the following meaning:
- R^1 = alkyl radicals, cycloalkyl radicals, and mixtures thereof, and
- R^2 = alkoxy radicals, cycloalkoxy radicals, and mixtures thereof;
- and
- B3) at least one hydrolyzable silane of the general formula III
- $$SiR_4 \quad (III),$$
- where the variable R has the meaning given above;
- with the proviso that the silane (B3) is not a silane (B2) according to the general formula II, and

- (C) 0 to 40% by weight, based on the total amount of coating material, of a material prepared by hydrolyzing and condensing at least one hydrolyzable silane (B3) of the general formula III.
2. (Currently Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 1, characterized in that the radical R^1 is at least one group selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and/or cyclohexyl groups and the radical R^2 is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy, sec-butoxy, tert-butoxy, pentyloxy, hexyloxy, cyclopropyloxy, cyclobutyloxy, cyclopentyloxy, cyclohexyloxy groups, and mixtures thereof.
 3. (Previously Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 1, characterized in that the molar ratio of silane (B2) to silane (B3) is 1 : 10 to 1 : 1.
 4. (Currently Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 1, characterized in that the atomic ratio of metal M to silicon is 1 : 10 to 1 : 1.5.
 5. (Previously Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 1, characterized in that it is aromatics free.
 6. (Currently Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 1, comprising , in each case based on its total amount, 1 to 30% by weight of the acrylate copolymer solution (A) and 5 to 50% by weight of the sol (B) and also up to 94% by weight of at least one suitable additional constituent (C).
 7. (Currently Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 1, characterized in that, in the general formulae I and III,
 - the nonhydrolyzable groups R are at least one group selected from alkyl groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms; alkenyl groups of 2 to 4 carbon atoms; alkynyl groups of 2 to 4 carbon atoms; aryl groups of 6 to 10 carbon atoms; and mixtures thereof, and

- the hydrolyzable groups R are at least one group selected from hydrogen atoms, alkoxy groups of 1 to 20 carbon atoms; alkoxy-substituted alkoxy groups of 3 to 20 carbon atoms; acyloxy groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms; alkylcarbonyl groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms; and mixtures thereof.
8. (Previously Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 7, characterized in that
- the hydrolyzable groups R are at least one group selected from methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, i-propoxy, n-butoxy, sec-butoxy, beta-methoxyethoxy, acetoxy, propionyloxy, acetyl groups and mixtures thereof, and the
 - nonhydrolyzable groups R are at least one group selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, vinyl, 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, butenyl, acetylenyl, propargyl, phenyl, naphthyl groups, and mixtures thereof.
9. (Previously Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 1, characterized in that the nonhydrolyzable groups R contain at least one functional group.
10. (Previously Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 1, characterized in that complexing is effected using organic compounds which form chelate ligands.
11. (Previously Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 1, characterized in that it is a sol-gel clearcoat material.

Claims 12-14 (Canceled)

15. (Previously Amended) A process for producing mar-resistant sol-gel coatings on single-coat or multicoat paint systems by
- (i) applying a paint system to a substrate,
 - (ii) applying a sol-gel coating material atop the paint system, and
 - (iii) curing the sol-gel coating material,

characterized in that the applied sol-gel coating material is the sol-gel coating material of claim 1.

16. (Original) The process of claim 15, characterized in that the applied sol-gel coating material is cured by irradiation with intermediate IR radiation.
17. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 15 or 16, characterized in that the paint system has been completely cured.
18. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 15, characterized in that the paint system is selected from single coat paint systems and multicoat paint systems.
19. (Previously Amended) A sol-gel coating prepared from a sol-gel coating material as claimed in claim 1.
20. (Previously Amended) A substrate comprising at least one sol-gel coating as claimed in claim 19.
21. (Previously Added) The sol-gel coating material of claim 3, characterized in that the molar ratio of silane (B2) to silane (B3) is 1 : 6 to 1 : 2.
22. (Currently Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 4, characterized in that the atomic ratio of metal M to silicon is 1 : 6 to 1 : 2.
23. (Currently Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 6, comprising , in each case based on its total amount, 2 to 20% by weight of the acrylate copolymer solution (A) and 10 to 40% by weight of the sol (B) and also up to 9488% by weight of at least one suitable additional constituent-(C).
24. (Currently Amended) The sol-gel coating material of claim 23, comprising , in each case based on its total amount, 3 to 15% by weight of the acrylate copolymer solution (A) and

15 to 30% by weight of the sol (B) and also up to 94.82% by weight of at least one suitable additional constituent ~~(C)~~.

25. (Previously Added) The sol-gel coating material of claim 9, characterized in that the nonhydrolyzable groups R contain at least one functional group selected from epoxide groups, amino groups, olefinically unsaturated groups, mercapto groups, isocyanate groups, and mixtures thereof.
26. (Previously Added) The process of claim 18, characterized in that the paint system is selected from automotive original equipment manufacturing coatings, automotive repair coatings, industrial coatings, plastics coatings and furniture coatings.